

in the tobacco-processing industry, comprising: a filter-tube feeding element; at least one conveying element into which filter tubes are insertable from the feeding element; and at least one processing station for being supplied with the filter tubes by the at least one conveying element, wherein at least one of the processing stations is a filtering materials insertion station including means for inserting two portions of filtering materials into a filter tube in a single operational step.--

Kindly amend paragraph 0038 to read as follows:

B6 --In the event that the portions are inserted into more than one filter tube in the processing station, it is advantageous if respectively two portions can be inserted. This embodiment according to the invention of the apparatus for producing compound filters makes it possible to achieve an extremely fast processing speed.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

B7 38. (Twice Amended) A method for producing compound filters for products in the tobacco-processing industry, comprising the following operational steps:

supplying a filter tube to a predetermined position; and
inserting predetermined portions of filtering material into the filter tube, said inserting step including inserting at least two portions of the filtering material into the filter tube during one operational step.

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47. (Twice Amended) The method according to claim 38, including producing a compound filter having a multiple unit filter of n units, wherein n is a natural, even number higher than 1.

48. (Amended) A compound filter produced according to the method of claim 38.

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49. (Amended) An apparatus for producing compound filters for products in the tobacco-producing industry, comprising:

a filter-tube feeding element;

at least one conveyor into which filter tubes are insertable from the feeding element; and

at least one processing station for being supplied with the filter tubes by the at least one conveyor, wherein at least one of the processing stations is a filtering materials insertion station including means for inserting two portions of filtering materials into a filter tube in a single operational step.

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61. (Twice Amended) A compound filter manufacturing system for products in the tobacco-processing industry, comprising:

a filter-tube feeding apparatus;

a conveying system for conveying filter tubes supplied by

the filter-tube feeding apparatus along a predetermined movement path; and

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at least one processing station receiving filter tubes from the conveying system, said at least one processing station including at least processing station for inserting at least two portions of filtering materials into at least one filter tube during one operational step.
